

Highlights from the local media of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

June 10th, 2016 | Volume: 2 - 30/6

Top Stories

[Stable, peaceful Afghanistan our shared objective, PM Modi tells US Congress](#)

Khaama Press | 9th June

The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said a stable and peaceful Afghanistan is a shared objective of both India and the United States. Modi made the remarks during a speech in the joint meeting of the US Congress during his visit to the country. "A commitment to rebuild a peaceful, and stable and prosperous Afghanistan our shared objective," Modi said.

[Nepal-India security group meeting: India positive on loan waiver, say officials](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 10th June

India has taken Nepal's request for loan waiver on its military hardware procurement in the past positively, according to Nepali officials who attended the twelfth meeting of Nepal-India Bilateral Consultative Group (BCG) on Security that concluded on Thursday. During the meeting, the Nepali side requested India for the supply of military hardware and a helicopter, officials said. "The BCG discussion covered issues relating to mutual security concerns and defence training," the Nepali Embassy in New Delhi said in a statement.

[World Bank: Bangladesh sees jump in e-procurement](#)

Dhaka Tribune | 10th June

Bangladesh is making a paradigm shift for its public procurement environment with an exponential growth of electronic government procurement, known as e-GP, the World Bank said in a statement. The e-GP covers four key government agencies – Roads and Highways Department, Local Government Engineering Department, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board and Bangladesh Water Development Board.

AFGHANISTAN

[Obama grants US military broader role to assist Afghan troops fight Taliban](#)

Khaama Press | 10th June

The US President Barack Obama has approved broader role for the US military to assist the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) to fight the Taliban-led insurgency. According to reports, the broader role granted to the US military will allow them to accompany Afghan forces and assist them more proactively on the battlefield. US defense officials have said the decision would also allow greater use of U.S. air power, particularly close air support.

[Taliban Abduct Almost 50 Passengers in Kunduz](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan | 9th July

Local officials of northern Kunduz said that the Taliban abducted almost 50 passengers earlier in the day. The incident took place in Bagh Meeri village close to Kunduz city after a group of insurgents stopped a bus which was travelling from north-eastern Badakhshan province to Kabul, provincial council officials said.

BANGLADESH

[Export Promotion Bureau targets \\$37b export](#)

The Financial Express | 10th June

The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) will propose setting the country's export target at \$ 37 billion for the upcoming fiscal year (FY) 2016-17, officials said. The EPB has projected the target, which sees an 8.81 per cent or \$ 3.50 billion rise over the current fiscal year's export target of \$ 33.50 billion.

[Crackdown on target killers launched: home minister Asaduzzaman Khan](#)

UNB / Prothom Alo | 9th June

Amid the growing target killings at different parts of the country, home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on Wednesday said the members of law enforcement agencies have started combing operations to tackle it and track down the perpetrators. "All necessary steps have been taken to check target killings. We're conducting combing operations wherever it is needed. We're doing it at suspected places silently," he told reporters. The home minister came up with the disclosure while talking to reporters after attending an iftar party at Coast Guard headquarters.

BHUTAN

[National Council rejects new agency for seized goods](#)

Kuensel | 9th June

The National Council decided not to deliberate the formation of a new agency to maintain and store seized goods and properties as recommended by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in its 2015 annual report. In its recommendations from the report, the commission stated that currently, ACC with other regulatory authorities like the police, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority, Bhutan Narcotic Control Authority, Department of Forests and Parks Services and the revenue and customs department have maintained and stored goods they have seized.

MALDIVES

[Former Vice President Adheeb sentenced to 15 years, his bodyguards - ten years in the Presidential Launch explosion](#)

Sun Online | 9th June

Criminal Court has sentenced the former Vice President Ahmed Adheeb Abdul Gafoor to 15 years and he two body guards to ten years in prison after being found guilty of detonating an IED onboard the Presidential Launch "Finifenma". The two bodyguards of the former Vice President who get ten year prison sentences are Hassan Rikaz and Afza Ahmed Amir.

MYANMAR

[Civil Society Groups Demand National Land Restitution Policy for Displaced Communities](#)

The Irrawaddy | 9th June

Several of Burma's civil society organizations (CSOs) and ethnic community leaders have called for the government to develop a national land restitution policy for communities displaced by conflict. Their concerns were expressed at a public forum following a two-day workshop organized by The Border Consortium (TBC) and the Transnational Institute (TNI). CSOs and community leaders aimed to establish a national platform for displaced communities to be able to claim land and property rights, review international standards and increase joint advocacy.

NEPAL

[US official meets PM Oli](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 10th June

Visiting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs of the United States William Todd met with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Thursday. According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, the duo discussed matters related to bilateral ties, reconstruction, implementation of the constitution and US assistance to Nepal. The

US has termed Nepal's new constitution as a milestone and "a living document that should be taken to the people for broader engagement".

PAKISTAN

[Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline to be completed by 2018](#)

Daily Times | 9th June

Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline will be constructed by 2018, while the Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India Pipeline (TAPI) project will be completed by January 2020. This was stated by Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, who was speaking at a media briefing about the government's performance during the last three years. Talking to reporters, Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Asif said that power outages for domestic consumers had been reduced from 15 hours to six or seven hours, which will further come down this December.

[Pakistan concerned over growing Indo-US ties: Sartaj Aziz](#)

DAWN | 10th June

Pakistan has expressed its concern over growing strategic ties between India and the United States (US), a day after the two countries signed a number of agreements for security cooperation during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US. Addressing a press conference at the Foreign Office (FO), the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said that the US approaches Pakistan whenever it needs it, and abandons it when it doesn't need Pakistan. "Pakistan will convey its concerns to US over the latest issues in the bilateral ties," Aziz said, adding that a high-level meeting is planned between Pakistan and US officials on June 10 in Islamabad.

SRI LANKA

[Sri Lanka has become more peaceful, jump up by 18 notches in Global Peace Index](#)

Colombo Page | 9th June

Sri Lanka has become more peaceful and ranked higher in this year's Global Peace Index as the country saw strong gains in both internal and external peace. Sri Lanka was up by 18 places to rank 97th with a score of 2.133 in the 2016 Global Peace Index (GPI) which ranked 163 nations according to their "level of peacefulness".

[Sri Lanka Navy arrests 6 Indian fishermen poaching in Sri Lankan waters](#)

Colombo Page | 9th June

Sri Lanka Navy said it has assisted the Sri Lanka Coast Guard today to arrest six Indian fishermen for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and fishing in Sri Lankan waters.

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